

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 35 is respectfully requested. The offending last four lines of the claims have been deleted, and it is believed that the claim consequentially complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. As far as Sections 102 and 103 of the Patent Statute are concerned, claim 35 is considered allowable as it depends from allowed claim 34.

The subject matter deleted from claim 35 has been incorporated above into new claim 40. That claim is considered allowable because, *inter alia*, it depends from allowed claim 34.

As to the remaining claims, numbers 26-34, 36, and 37 have been allowed and do not require further comment.

On page 4 of the outstanding Office action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-19 and 21-25: "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form . . ." In response to that advice, applicant has above:

Rewritten claim 5 in independent form as claim 38;

Amended claims 6-19 to depend from claim 38;

Rewritten claim 21 in independent form as claim 39;

Amended claims 22-25 to depend from claim 39.

Allowance of the above claims is consequently believed to be in order and is accordingly solicited.

Particularly with the amendments made above, claims 1-4 are considered clearly patentable over the Hoyt reference applied against original claims 1, 2, and 4 and the combination of Hoyt with Walk applied against claim 3. Claim 1 is limited to the combination of a bow having a riser and limbs extending in opposite directions from the riser with limb-

a riser and limbs extending in opposite directions from the riser with limb-associated components for modifying the decay pattern of the vibrations set up in the bow limbs when an arrow is released. It is further required that the decay pattern modifying components be fabricated from an elastomeric polymer. The only devices of the Hoyt bow located as specified in claim 1 are those identified by reference characters 24, 26; 31, 32; 24, 26, 36, 38; and 48 . . . 52. In no instance is the identified device one fabricated from an elastomeric polymer; and nothing in the Hoyt reference suggests a decay pattern modifier of that character.

Walk, cited to show a split limb bow, adds nothing to Hoyt as far as the above-discussed distinguishing limitation of parent claim 1 is concerned.

The "elastomeric polymer" limitation under discussion is also considered to distinguish claims 1-4 from the Izuta reference applied against claims 1, 2, and 4 as well as the combination of Izuta and Walk applied against claim 3. Like the riser-mounted devices of Hoyt, the stabilizers 3 disclosed by Izuta are not elastomeric polymer components, and nothing in Izuta or the secondary Walk reference in any way suggests the substitution of such components for those specifically disclosed by Izuta.

An "elastomeric polymer" limitation as discussed above is also considered to patentably distinguish the invention defined in claim 20 from the Masterfield patent applied against the original claim of that number. Claim 20 calls for, inter alia, an elongated stabilizer fixed to the riser of an archery bow and a decay pattern modifying device fixed to the outer, free end of the stabilizer. The only components fixed to the corresponding end of the Masterfield stabilizer 26 are weights 32, 34, or 36. Nothing in this stabilizer/weight combination in any way discloses or makes it obvious to substitute an elastomeric material for one of these weights to

To ensure that applicant has complied with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.56, he is attaching hereto a copy of his previously-issued patent No. 5,362,046 which discloses a variety of elastomeric devices for: "damping impact generated vibrations . . . to keep those vibrations from discomforting or paining the wielder of an implement in which the vibration originated."

Copies of the '046 patent and an appropriately completed Information Disclosure Statement are attached.

SIGNED at Seattle, Washington, this 23d day of October, 2000.

Respectfully Submitted

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